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# Baha'i Religion

By Hamdi, Hajrie, Sohee and Wira.

## What is the origin of this religion?When/How/Why did it start?

Baha'i originated from Islam, in 1844. It is very similar to the Islamic faith. Believers in the Baha'i faith believe that Baha'u'llah is the greatest prophet.

In 1844, Mizra Ali Muhammad (also known as the "Bab") said that he was the greatest prophet of god yet to appear. He is said to be directly related to Muhammad (The Muslims' Prophet) and to be the fulfillment of the writings of all religions. During his brief 6 year ministry, he claimed that a prophet greater than himself would come. In 1863, Mirza Husayn Ali claimed that he was the



Baha'u'llah

great prophet. Mirza Husayn became Baha'u'llah, and created a religion called Baha'i.

## What are the main rituals or practices of this religion?

The main practices of Baha'i are Baha'i's have no clergy, sacraments or rituals. Other practices include praying each day (recited prayers and personal prayers), spending each day in meditation, observing the nine holy days, fasting nineteen days a year, working to get rid of prejudice, regarding work as a form of worship, making at least one pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Bab and houses where Baha'u'llah lived in and not consuming alcohol.

## What are the main texts associated with this religion?

There are many books of sacred writing for the Baha'i religion. All three important figures of the religion- Bab, Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l-Baba- have contributed to the scriptures. Their writings include *The Most Holy Book*, *The Book of Certitude*, *Gleanings from the Writing of Baha'u'llah*, *The Hidden Words* and *The Seven Valleys*.



Baha'i star



### How many people follow this religion in Australia and the World?

There is no sure number of followers, although it is estimated that around the world there are 7.8 million followers. The Baha'i faith is the second most widespread independent religion in the world, according to *The Britannica Book of the Year* (1992–present). In Australia there is no definite answer to the number of Baha'i followers, but in 2005 there were about 17,700 followers in Australia. The numbers have most definitely grown as the Baha'i faith is a very fast growing one.

### How can you be a good/devout follower of this religion?

The Baha'i faith says to be a good/devout follower you would have to obey the laws, treat one another decently. In this religion there are prohibitions. For example you are forbidden to trade in slaves because they have worth in all human beings and rights. You are not also allowed to backbite, slander and dwelling on the faults of others. It is unlawful to beg, and it is forbidden to give to him who beggeth.

### What rewards and punishments are associated with the faith?

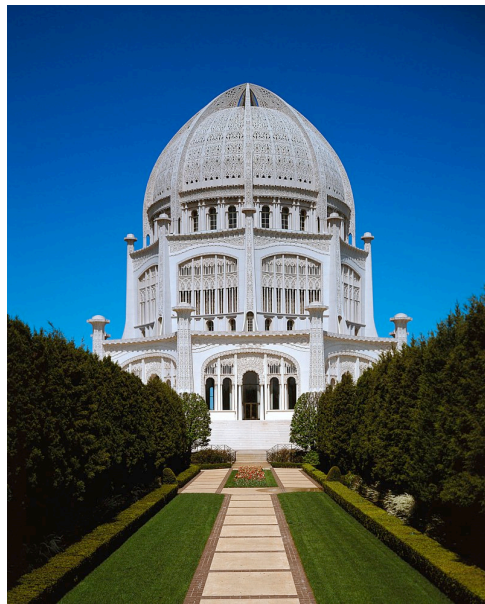
If a thief is caught for the first time, he is to be exiled. Then he goes to another city and steals there, it will be as if he is caught for the first time as people will not be knowing of his past.

On the third offense, place a mark upon his brow so that he may be recognized by it.

### List any important places associated with this religion.

There are currently seven Baha'i Houses of Worship with an eighth under construction in Chile.

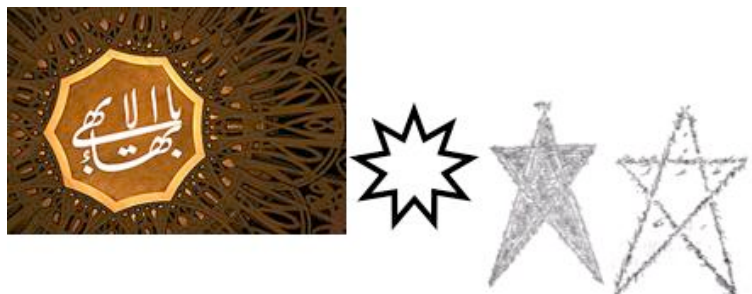
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One of the Baha'i House Of Worships located in Chicago

### Are there any important symbols associated with this religion? What are they?

The symbols of the religion are derived from the Arabic word Baha (بهاء "splendor" or "glory"), with a numerical value of 9, which is why the most common symbol is why the most common symbol is the nine pointed star.



The former consists of two stars interspersed with a stylized Baha'i whose shape is meant to recall the three oneness's.

### Upload any images that might have some significance in this religion. Explain their importance.

Five-pointed star is the official symbol of the Baha'i Faith. In the Baha'i Faith, the star is known as the Haykal (Arabic: "temple"), and it was initiated and established by the Bab. Both the Bab and Baha'ullah wrote various works in the form of a pentagram.

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